



MONTANA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION

July 29, 2011

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
334 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of Rural Health Care Support Mechanism. WC Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On July 27, 2011, I met with Chin Yoo and Erica Myers of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, where I reiterated Montana Telecommunications Association's (MTA) opposition to the infrastructure program as proposed in the Commission's Rural Health Care Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). I also reiterated MTA's opposition to a request by the Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM) for additional funding under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP).

Montana's rural telecom providers have deployed over 14,000 miles of fiber optic facilities in the State, and offer advanced telecommunications services to business and residential consumers throughout the state, including the health care member/partners in the HIEM network. As MTA has stated in previous comments, the HIEM project wastes precious universal service funds by duplicating existing network facilities. It threatens job creation and economic development by building excess capacity, which is designed to remove anchor institutions from the public network and in turn diminishes the integrity of the public network upon which all consumers and businesses rely.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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cc Chin Yoo
Erica Myers